

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Ronnie Coleman is recognized by the International Federation of Bodybuilders as six-time winner of the Mr. Olympia title and has a message to share with Native Americans; and,

Whereas, The Native American community here in the United States, comprised of 500 American Indian and Alaska Native tribes of unique ethnic and Anthropologic origin, only accounts for 1 percent of the total U.S. population with the larger percentage located in the western states; and,

Whereas, Native Americans' life expectancy is 5.2 years less than the general population, with diabetes, high cholesterol, and heart disease as a contributing factor that results from excessive use of alcohol or illegal substances, and the suicide rate for young Native American males is two to three times the national average; and,

Whereas, Substance abuse among Native Americans is a major problem that could be reduced by the encouragement of good, healthy exercise routines and healthy eating habits; and,

Whereas, Mr. Coleman's goal is to visit with students and local officials to demonstrate the importance of weightlifting, exercise, improved eating and health habits so that tribes and communities can, over time, achieve substantial reductions in the demand for, and consequently the use of, alcohol and other harmful substances, including tobacco and illegal drugs; and,

Whereas, Mr. Coleman's visit to Sisseton and the surrounding area will include visits with students at Tiospa Zina Tribal School, Sisseton-Wahpeton College, and Sisseton High School, as well as officials at the Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribal Office, and will culminate with a farewell address the evening of May 12, 2004; and,

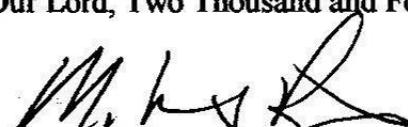
Whereas, It is fitting and proper for the Governor of South Dakota to recognize the efforts of Mr. Coleman to improve the living conditions of this state's citizens through the promotion of improved health habits:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 12, 2004, as

MR. OLYMPIA RONNIE COLEMAN DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Third Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.



M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:



Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

